

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01153 171248Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----024752 171252Z /53

P R 170940Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7979
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1153

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VIEWS

1. NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TANZANIA UTHMAN YOLAH HAS
BECOME ONE OF MOST ENERGETIC AND WELL INFORMED MEMBERS OF
DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE SINCE HIS ARRIVAL SOME SIX MONTHS AGO.
TWO ITEMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST EMERGED FROM HOUR'S CONVERSATION
ON RHODESIA WHICH I HAD WITH HIM MARCH 17.

2. ON SUBJECT OF RELATIVE POPULARITY VARIOUS NATIONALISTS WITHIN
RHODESIA, YOLAH SAID NIGERIA HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN MUZOREWA'S
CLAIM TO MAJORITY SUPPORT AND HAD INSTITUTED SURVEY BY "ITS
OWN OSOURCES INSIDE RHODESIA". SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, CONCLU-
SION WAS THAT MUGABE WAS MOST POPULAR OF ALL THE NATIONALIST
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LEADERS. REASONS WERE HIS CONTINUED APPEAL TO MOST MEMBERS OF
OLD ZANU AS PURER THAN SITHOLE AND HIS IMAGE AS A FIGHTER. LATTER
ADDED TO BY ACUTE RESENTMENT IN COUNTRYSIDE
AGAINST "PROTECTED VILLAGES" INSTITUTED BY SMITH GOVERNMENT.

3. IN DISCUSSION ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE AND WHAT TO DO NEXT,
YOLAH AND I AGREED SOME COMBINED CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE BY FRONT LINE

AND NIGERIA MIGHT BE HELPFUL. FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' MEETING WAS MENTIONED AS ONE POSSIBILITY. YOLAH ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NIGERIANS WOULD BE GIVING THEIR FULL VIEWS TO PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS VISIT TO LAGOS AND SEEMED TO BE FORMULATING IN HIS OWN MIND IDEA OF NIGERIA'S ATTEMPTING TO WORK WITH FRONT LINE TO EVOLVE SOME KIND OF COORDINATED POSITION BY THAT TIME. YOLAH DID NOT, HOWEVER, MAKE ANY MENTION OF PROPOSED GARBA TOUR OF FL AS REPORTED BY COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL RAMPHAL IN LONDON 4279. NOR DID I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
SPAIN

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NNN

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